

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for a patient comprising:

4 a step for receiving at the central computer a laboratory test request from
5 the client computer and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the
6 requested laboratory test; and

7 a step for transmitting to the client computer information for generating a
8 test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a
2 step for verifying at the central computer that the requested laboratory test is payable by a
3 responsible party identified in the billing information for ~~the~~an identified diagnosis.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, said receiving step
2 comprising a step for receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code, said verifying
3 step comprising a step for searching a code database for correspondence between the
4 diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, said verifying step
2 comprising a step for determining for the identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory
3 test whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising a
2 step for transmitting a notification to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is
3 not payable by the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising a
2 step for requesting a payment guarantee from ~~the~~a client in response to the notification.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising a

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2 step for transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information to the client computer if
3 the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the
4 identified diagnosis.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a
2 step for transmitting a request for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions
3 are required for the requested laboratory test.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, said receiving step
2 comprising:

3 a step for receiving a patient identification at the central computer from the
4 client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom the test is
5 being ordered;

6 a step for receiving billing information at the central computer from the
7 client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for payment of
8 the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 a step for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer from the
10 client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

1 10. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological
3 specimen for a patient comprising:

4 a step for transmitting to the central computer a laboratory test request
5 from the client computer and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to
6 the requested laboratory test; and

7 a step for receiving from the central computer information for generating a
8 test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising a
2 step for receiving a notification from the central computer if the requested laboratory test
3 is not payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information for ~~the~~an
4 identified diagnosis.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step for guaranteeing payment by ~~the~~a client in response to the notification.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step for transmitting additional diagnosis information to the central computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for transmitting additional information to the central computer if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested laboratory test.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising a step for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising a step for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes commonly used by ~~the~~a client.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising a step for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to ~~the~~an identified diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising a step for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly used by ~~the~~a client.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, said transmitting step comprising:

a step for transmitting a patient identification from the central computer to the client computer, thereby providing information about the patient for whom the test is being ordered;

a step for transmitting billing information from the central computer to the client computer, thereby providing information about a party responsible for payment of

8 the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 a step for transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central computer to the
10 client computer, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

1 20. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising:

4 a step for receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

5 a step for receiving at the central computer a request from the client
6 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients;
7 and

8 a step for transmitting to the client computer the laboratory test results.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, said receiving step
2 comprising a step for receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of
3 patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, said transmitting
2 step comprising a step for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a
3 patient, said receiving step comprising a step for receiving an identification of a patient
4 and a number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 23. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising:

4 a step for transmitting to the central computer a request from the client
5 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients;
6 and

7 a step for receiving from the central computer the laboratory test results.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, said transmitting
2 step comprising a step for transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on

one of patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, said receiving step comprising a step for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, said transmitting step comprising a step for transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

26. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client computer and a central computer, a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted through the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

transmitting information through the network from the central computer to the client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of analyzing the at least one query at the central computer to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said receiving step comprises receiving a diagnosis code and a laboratory test code as a part of the at least one query and said analyzing step comprises searching a code database for correspondence between the diagnosis code and the laboratory test code.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said analyzing step comprises comparing the an identified diagnosis and the requested laboratory test to a maximum value to determine whether a maximum number of tests has been exceeded for the identified diagnosis.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting a notification through the network from the central computer to the

client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for an the identified diagnosis.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of requesting an indication that the patient is responsible for payment in response to the notification.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network from the central computer to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for ~~the~~ an identified diagnosis.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of transmitting a request through the network from the central computer to the client computer for additional information if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the requested laboratory test.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, said receiving step comprising:

receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient for whom the test is being ordered;

receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

35. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client computer and a central computer, a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising the steps of:

transmitting at least one query through the network from the client

5 computer to the central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test
6 request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested
7 laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
10 with the biological specimen.

1 36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising the
2 step of receiving a notification through the network from the central computer if the
3 requested laboratory test is not payable by a responsible party identified in the billing
4 information for ~~the~~a identified diagnosis.

1 37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising the
2 step of receiving, at the client computer, information including an acknowledgement by the
3 patient that ~~the~~a client is responsible for payment in response to the notification.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting additional diagnosis information from the client computer to the
3 central computer through the network if the requested laboratory test is not payable by
4 the identified responsible party for the identified diagnosis.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising
2 the step of transmitting additional information from the client computer to the central
3 computer through the network if ask-at-order-entry questions are required for the
4 requested laboratory test.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 transmitting step comprises selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the
3 requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

1 41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 transmitting step comprises selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to ~~the~~a identified
3 diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 transmitting step comprises:

3 transmitting a patient identification from the central computer to the client
4 computer through the network, thereby providing information about the patient for whom
5 the test is being ordered;

6 transmitting billing information from the central computer to the client
7 computer through the network, thereby providing information about a party responsible for
8 payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

9 transmitting a patient diagnosis from the central computer to the client
10 computer through the network, thereby providing at least one diagnosis for the identified
11 patient.

1 43. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of providing results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising the steps of:

4 receiving at the central computer laboratory test results;

5 receiving at the central computer via the network, a request from the client
6 computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients;
7 and

8 transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer to the
9 client computer through the network responsive to the received identification.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said
2 receiving step comprises receiving an identification of a group of patients based on one of
3 patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

1 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said
2 transmitting step comprises transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory test results for
3 a patient, and said receiving step comprises receiving an identification of a patient and a
4 number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative report.

1 46. (Previously Presented) In a computer network including a client
2 computer and a central computer, a method of obtaining results of a laboratory test of a
3 biological specimen for patients comprising the steps of:

transmitting to the central computer from the client computer through the network, a request for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the network.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said transmitting step comprises transmitting an identification of a group of patients based on one of patient sex, a laboratory test, a time period, patient age, and combinations thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said receiving step comprises receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient and said transmitting step comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

49. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

at least one client computer;

a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client computer;

means for receiving, at the central computer, at least one query transmitted from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

means for transmitting information from the central computer to the client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said receiving means comprises:

means for receiving a patient identification at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about the patient

for whom the test is being ordered;

means for receiving billing information at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining information about a party responsible for payment of the test being ordered for the identified patient; and

means for receiving a patient diagnosis at the central computer in the at least one query from the client computer, thereby obtaining at least one diagnosis for the identified patient.

51. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient comprising:

at least one client computer;

a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client computer;

means for transmitting at least one query from the client computer to the central computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

means, at the at least one client computer for receiving information from the central computer, the received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a laboratory test code corresponding to the requested laboratory test from a menu of laboratory test codes.

53. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising means for customizing the menu of laboratory test codes to include laboratory test codes commonly used by ~~the~~a client.

54. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for selecting a diagnosis code corresponding to ~~the~~an identified diagnosis from a menu of diagnosis codes.

1 55. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising
2 means for customizing the menu of diagnosis codes to include diagnosis codes commonly
3 used by ~~the~~ a client.

1 56. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for providing results of a
2 laboratory test of a biological specimen for patients comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for receiving laboratory test results at the central computer;

7 means for receiving a request from the client computer for laboratory test
8 results and an identification of a patient or group of patients at the central computer; and

9 means for transmitting the laboratory test results from the central computer
10 to the client computer responsive to the received identification.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein said
2 means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting a cumulative report of laboratory
3 test results for a patient, and said receiving means comprises means for receiving an
4 identification of a patient and a number of reports to be transmitted in the cumulative
5 report.

1 58. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for obtaining results of a laboratory
2 test of a biological specimen for patients comprising:

3 at least one client computer;

4 a central computer coupled to exchange data with the at least one client
5 computer;

6 means for transmitting a request from the at least one client computer to
7 the central computer for laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group
8 of patients; and

means for receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer.

59. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said receiving means comprises means for receiving a cumulative report of laboratory test results for a patient, said means for transmitting comprises transmitting an identification of a patient and a number of reports to be received in the cumulative report.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including computer program instructions that cause a central computer, in a computer network including at least one client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of receiving an order of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one query transmitted through the network from the client computer, the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

transmitting information through the network to the at least one client computer, the information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use with the biological specimen.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of analyzing the at least one query to verify that the requested laboratory test is payable by a responsible party identified in the billing information.

62. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 61, wherein the computer program instructions further cause the central computer to perform the step of transmitting a request for additional diagnosis information through the network to the client computer if the requested laboratory test is not payable by the identified responsible party for the an identified diagnosis.

63. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including computer program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network including the client computer and a central computer, to perform a method of ordering a laboratory test of a biological specimen for a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

5 transmitting at least one query through the network to the central computer,
6 the at least one query including a laboratory test request and patient, billing, and
7 diagnosis information corresponding to the requested laboratory test; and

8 receiving information through the network from the central computer, the
9 received information including data for generating a test requisition and a label for use
10 with the biological specimen.

1 64. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including
2 computer program instructions that cause a central computer in a computer network
3 including a client computer and the central computer, to perform a method of providing
4 results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 receiving the laboratory test results;

7 receiving, via the network, a request from the client computer for the
8 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients; and

9 transmitting the laboratory test results to the client computer through the
10 network, responsive to the identification of the patient or group of patients.

1 65. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium including
2 computer program instructions that cause a client computer in a computer network
3 including the client computer and a central computer, to perform a method of obtaining
4 results of a laboratory test of a biological specimen for patients, the method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 transmitting, to the central computer through the network, a request for the
7 laboratory test results and an identification of a patient or group of patients corresponding
8 to the test results; and

9 receiving the laboratory test results from the central computer through the
10 network.